

Army Field Support Battalion—Afghanistan

April 2006

Volume 1, Issue 2



MONTHLY SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Partners in Excellence for a Better Tomorrow



2005 Planning stages of the new AMC site w/Engineer Dave Sears from AMC-SWA Kuwait.

Looking back, a year ago when the new site for the AMC-Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan (AFSBn-AF) was a vision, schematics, legal reviews and meetings after meetings, it is hard to imagine how much this Battalion has accomplished.

Today, AFSBn-AF has grown into a viable support center, as the only Add on Armor (AOA) facility in Bagram, and the only General Support Maintenance Facility in Afghanistan.

In hindsight, one can definitely feel a great sense of accomplishment.

But this site is far from being complete. By combining shared goals and visions on how to best support the Warfighter, LTC Dix, Commander

2006 AMC AFSBN-AF site.



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Remember to drink plenty of water. With the warm weather drawing near you may become dehydrated before you even know it. You'll find some fun water facts in a Jeopardy format throughout this month's edition of Monthly Significant Accomplishments.

Information from EPA website.

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*The Partnership
between AMC,
AECOM, and 10th
Mountain, will
pay high
dividends in lives
saved and
keeping Warriors
in the Fight.*



AMC Training Enhances Soldiers Survivability

The sight of a humvee dressed in AMC Add on Armor is a great feeling of security for our Warriors on the forefront of the Afghanistan Mountains and countryside, but it is critical to the military to protect our Soldiers in a greater way. Recently AMC, AECOM, and 10th Mountain came together to receive training on products that will do just that, life saving kits for the M1114 family of humvee. Five new enhancements that may just save a warfighters live.

In a recent two day training session personnel received a demonstration and training from L3-acivilian contracting company from Kuwait and Iraq. Wade Myrum, Sean Hocutt, and Thomas Bixler, all L3 contractors, arrived on site to provide hands-on



*Wade reviews enhancement parts with an
AECOM worker*



*Wade Myrum shows a 10th Mountain Soldier
how to fit the gunner's restraint harness.*

training on the new enhancement safety features for the M1114 humvee. Once the demonstration was completed, the L3 contractors provided training on how to install the hardware.

This was the start of the AFSBn-AF "Train the Trainer" program within the 10th Mountain Division. Salerno is the next stop for these L3 instructors, where they will teach another group of mechanics the same techniques for the humvee upgrade. While the L3 contractors moved on to the Salerno site, the AMC/AECOM/10th Mountain.

*Thomas Bixler shows
Desmond Taylor the
Single Movement
Combat Lock (Org)*



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A. A change in the quality of water that makes it unsuitable for certain uses.

Q. What is pollution?

My Vision of God's Sandbox -

By Steve Adkins

IT Supervisor for AECOM in Afghanistan

The vision of cable movies, sporting events, and soap operas, paled in comparison to my need to talk to my family. The feeling of being alone and forgotten was sometimes more than I could take. Watching the outside world is not being a part of it. I knew that upgrading our satellite abilities would allow us to be husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters again. So with a desire and a design, I set out to make it happen. It was then I became entangled, sometimes strangled, in the jungle of red tape and road blocks that accompany these types of projects.

Thanks to recent battalion support, plans are underway to build and equip a centralized morale center available to military and non-military personnel alike at our humble abode. I am very excited to be involved in the development of this center and see yet another goal realized.

A center designed to uplift and restore those of us here in God's Sandbox. This center will have several communication stations equipped with phones and computers allowing communication with family to be more readily available to those who do not have a personal computer. Entertainment will include, but not be limited to, gaming stations and satellite television. One can take a little time and escape into a film being shown on our new big screen TV, or join together in video game tournaments, making life here at 'Bagram Resort' a bit more bearable.

Will this fix everything? No, but it does bring us much closer to the reason most of us are here...to do a good job and take care of our families. Morale is key to motivation and motivated people achieve great things. Is this the end? Is this all? Give me a little more time for personal reflection and we'll see.



Communications building for Internet and cable TV



Steve Adkins and his crew "making a better life" for those serving at Bagram, Afghanistan.

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AMC MWR/GYM
Beginning Stage

*"Morale is key
to motivation
and motivated
people achieve
great things."*

Steve Atkins



Morale Booster Comes to AMC in Afghanistan

by Yolanda Geolingo
S-1- AFSBn-AF

The Army Materiel Command, Army Field Support Battalion – Afghanistan began its construction phase in January 2005 after securing safe real estate on Bagram Airfield. The area required a lot of de-mining and removal of some old land mines from the Russian-Afghanistan War. The site started with four modular structures and four personnel which evolved into a well established Customer Orientated Services site for all mission required personnel within the Combined Joint Operations Area (CJOA) to include a multi-national 600 personnel based battalion.

Since the start of this mission in Afghanistan, AMC personnel have been commuting from the Southeast side of base to the Northeast (15 to 20 minute drive one way) to the new AMC maintenance site daily. In December 2005, the first AMC living quarters was occupied after 12 months of construction. AECOM, American defense contractor, and Dalal, Afghanistan based defense contractor, should receive all of the credit for the work on the living quarters. More living quarters are currently in the housing plan for construction to fully accommodate all AMC personnel assigned, attached, and/or visitors. Each room comes equipped with a twin size bed (including bedding), 21" inch color television, DVD player, wardrobe closet, desk, leather chairs, microwave, ironing board, rug, refrigerator, full-size mirror, and coat rack. Restrooms are equipped to accommodate at least two personnel per living container.

After 14 months of construction, Internet, and phone cables were installed at the new AMC Maintenance Site. This has been a tremendous morale booster for all AMC personnel who are



currently stationed here away from their love ones. Morale has increased by 100% from an average low of about 30%. The new AMC satellite house will provide Internet and cable to all AMC personnel with 24 hour services daily. The satellite house will have the main switch for all troubleshooting with any services provided so that the best connectivity available is offered. The service will offer high speed connectivity for everyone on the AMC Maintenance Site.

The phone service will allow family members to call in over the internet line that will be set up in the living quarters if the individual chooses. The phone may be purchased through

packet8.net for 179.00, but with a year service agreement there is a \$100.00 instant rebate, and a monthly fee of \$19.95. AECOM/AFSBn-AF employees will be able to call a state side number to reach their loved ones during their free time, from the comfort of their own room. Personal computers can be purchased through AAFES on the main base or via internet. The MWR facility will also provide gaming stations with tournaments, satellite television and work out facilities. All AMC personnel are participating in getting these facilities up and running in a timely matter.

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"...employees
will be able to
call....from the
comfort of their
own room."



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"I invited him [SSG Perri] and his teammates from the 699th Maintenance. I am impressed with their knowledge and assessment skills as they QC'd the 8 ITAS vehicles from the APS-5 Set! Truly outstanding Maintenance NCOs with Great Attitudes! Hooah!"

- LTC Dix



AMC Mission a Success With Help From Our Warfighter

Commander of the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan, LTC Richard Dix, witnessed the "take charge attitudes" and knew that SSG Perri, SGT Schwind and SSG Lee, all 10th Mountain Soldiers, could make a valuable contribution to the AMC/AECOM Maintenance team as QA/QC Inspectors.

Needless to say they have not let him down in his assessment of their skills. Since their assignment to AFSBn-AF SSG Perri and SGT Schwind have completed 578 jobs, and maintain the critical standards that may save a warfighter's life. SSG Lee does his part while performing duties in the forefront at the Salerno FOB.

The pride that these three Soldiers have for this mission is that of a true Warrior. "My job has a great impact on the warfighter's mission and their safety," Perri says about his current duties with AMC-AFSBn-AF. He feels this is a great learning experience, and understands that his fellow Warriors are counting on his expertise. "It is critical to get the vehicles back to FMC status so the warfighters on mission have the tools they need to perform their jobs," Perri goes on to say.



SSG Perri and SGT Schwind support the AMC mission at the Bagram site.



SSG Lee performs duties at the Salerno FOB



AECOM workers at the Salerno FOB

These Soldiers responsibilities extend pass their duties with AMC well into their unit of assignment. A typical day for these 10th Mountain Soldiers start very early with PT every morning at 0500-0600 with their unit of assignment the 699th Maintenance Company, commanded by CPT Dolge, which includes at times, a 6-12 mile road march. They are also required to perform ASP Guard Duty and Battalion Staff Duty with the other members of their platoon.

Working directly for LTC Dix while performing QA/QC duties, these Warriors not only strive to keep our 10th Mountain warfighters safe, but maintain a great relationship between 10th Mountain, AFSBn-AF, and AECOM. It is critical that Army Standards are maintained on all military vehicles, and as the QA/QC liaisons between AMC & AECOM, 10th Mountain Soldiers ensure the highest levels of compliance. The strengths of many result in enhanced safety of today's Soldiers.

“Sharana is an austere FOB in comparison to the larger installations in Afghanistan.”

-MAJ Kraling



Mission of AMC Personnel Vital to the Future of Sharana

By Maj. Richard Kraling
Support Planning Officer, AFSBn-AF

The Army in Afghanistan is spread across the country in over 50 Forward Operating Bases (FOBs). The battalion is committed to supporting the warfighters as far forward as possible. In line with this commitment, the unit has long had established maintenance activities in Kandahar and FOB Salerno. In response to changing mission requirements, the battalion recently stood up support operations at FOB Sharana, located close to and named after the capital of Paktika province.

The two prime missions of the Soldiers at Sharana are Route Clearance and Road Construction. These missions are vital to the long term success of our efforts in Afghanistan. To support the Soldiers and the missions at Sharana, two AMC contractors, AECOM and MANTECH, have established maintenance teams on site.



AECOM has stood up an Add-on-Armor team at Sharana to install the armor that the vehicles require to leave the FOB and conduct missions. This armor is currently available for tactical trucks. The team will install the new engineer equipment-specific Add-on-Armor when it's fielded this summer. MANTECH has provided a De-Mining Maintenance team to Sharana to perform direct support and above maintenance on the fleet of Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) de-mining systems operating out of the FOB. These systems include the Buffalo and RG-31 troop carriers and the Huskie and Meerkat mine detection vehicles.

Sharana is an austere FOB in comparison to the larger installations in Afghanistan. There is no Green Bean coffee, Burger King or PX. However, certain amenities are available. All personnel permanently assigned to the FOB live in a hard building as opposed to a tent. The FOB is too small for a KBR dining facility, so the DFAC is run by unit mess personnel. Soldiers have access to a gym, chapel, and MWR building with internet access, phones, books, and a large screen TV. There is also a unit-run shoppette where they can purchase toiletries and other necessities.

The Soldiers at Sharana have an important role in the future of Afghanistan and the AECOM and MANTECH personnel at Sharana are there, making sure that the Soldiers are protected while performing their mission.

A. The temperature at which water changes from a solid into a liquid or vice versa.

Q. What is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or 0 degrees Celsius

CIVILIAN HANGS UP “HEELS” FOR “COMBAT BOOTS”

When asked what he thought of his mother wearing combat boots, Mike Love didn't miss a beat in his response:

“I never dreamed I would be so proud of the phrase, ‘Your mother wears combat boots!’ I am proud of my mother’s commitment to serve.”

Ms. Joanne Love, Macomb Township, Michigan, working as a civilian executive staffing officer for the Army’s Tank Automotive and Armaments Command, felt a strong desire to show her support to the current war effort in a more direct way than going to work everyday. Today she’s working as the operations officer for the Army Field Support Battalion, Bagram, Afghanistan.

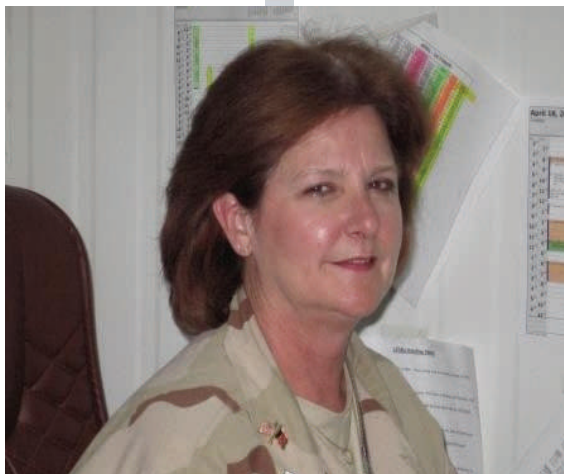
Prior to deployment, Love was required to attend the same pre-deployment courses the military attend at a Continental US Replacement Center (CRC) and was issued uniforms that are also worn in accordance with Army Regulations.

The mother of four sons, Love is a long-time admirer of the sacrifices Soldiers make each day and feels closer to understanding why they do it. She’s been working as an Army civilian for 20 years.

“I love the freedom living in America gives us, liberties that Afghan people, who, in their wildest dreams couldn’t imagine,” said Love. Never being in the

military, Love has a better understanding of why Soldiers must sacrifice for other’s universal rights.

Love speaks of her family and the joys they share from the liberties given to them not just by the Soldier of today, but those of past campaigns.



When she was presented with the opportunity to support Soldiers in Afghanistan, she was hesitant at first, but committed to the cause.

“I’m not going to lie, it wasn’t an immediate, where do I sign?” she says smiling. “I miss “SNOT”, an acronym for “Sisters Night On the Town,” and the fellowship of family and friends.” Realizing how much she took for granted and reflecting on the opportunities that Americans have verses the Afghan people, she says she has no regrets for volunteering.

Love was instrumental in establishing the Battalion’s new Logistics Operation Center (LOC) and continues to maintain the forefront of “meeting the vision” of the current Commander, Lt. Col. Dix. She continues to grow as the BN Ops Officer and is eager to learn new responsibilities within the battalion. No longer the “little lady in tennis shoes,” Love is the pulse of the Afghanistan battalion and shares the same common endeavors as everyone-supporting the Warfighter

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“I never dreamed I would be so proud to have someone say to me, ‘Your mother wears combat boots!’”

Mike Love

A. The percentage of the earth covered with water.

Q. What is 80%



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“My focus is on the individual Soldier and making sure that we do whatever we can to make him more survivable and lethal in this environment.”

LTC Washington



THE PEO SOLDIER'S STORY

By LTC(P) Berry Washington

OIC PEO Soldier RFI/ACU Fielding-AF



LTC (P) Washington prepares for a movement to FOB in Salerno to size Soldiers for individual Equipment.

Arriving in Afghanistan during the month of February 2006 to lead the RFI/ACU Fielding mission in support of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan. It is my goal to field Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) and Army Combat Uniform (ACU) items to every Soldier in theater who is authorized to receive an issue and making sure that we do what ever we can to make him more survivable and lethal in this environment.

RFI/ACU sizing and initial issuance for Soldiers takes place in building 310, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The Program Executive Officer (PEO) Soldier RFI/ACU Fielding Office is currently co-located in the same building with the Installation Property Book Office (IPBO) and

Self Service Supply Center (SSSC) on the south end of route Disney.

PEO Soldier's mission is to “provide Soldiers with the latest combat uniforms, individual equipment, and weapon systems to meet the challenges of current military operations during peacetime and in war, both today and tomorrow. PEO Soldier has fielded RFI equipment to over 500,000 Soldiers since the program started in 2002. We have Soldiers across the entire battle space and make every effort to meet their RFI/ACU needs.

The Joint Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration (JRSOI) process conducted here at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan (BAF) facilitates our efforts to meet the Soldier's initial issue RFI/ACU needs before they forward deploy to operating bases. As an example, we recently conducted a successful sizing mission at Forward Observation Base(FOB)-Salerno, in support of a company size unit. These brave Soldiers are operating at the tip of the spear in the Combined Joint Operations Area (CJOA)-Afghanistan and we do whatever we can to meet the needs in an ever changing operating environment.

We've recognized a need to expand our capability to meet the needs of Soldiers when it comes to ACU sizing and initial issue. Therefore, we've taken aggressive measures to lean forward and bring a direct issue facility to our Soldiers. In the very foreseeable future we plan to stand-up a RFI/ACU direct issue facility here at BAF.

LTC (P) Washington asked to send a heart-felt “shot-out” to LTC Richard Dix and Team at the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan, for their continue support of TEAM SOLDIER daily mission requirements.

A. The name for a smaller stream that flows into a larger stream.

Q. What is a tributary?

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CARPA DIEM-SEIZE THE DAY JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are many very fulfilling jobs within the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan (AFSBn-AF). Individuals who would like to make a difference in a very important mission that supports Soldiers are encouraged to apply for any of the vacancies shown.

For more information or your questions about vacancies within AFSBn-AF contact Ms. Janice Robinson at robinsonj@mmcs.army.mil.

Critical Position Vacancy List		
VACANCY	GRADE	LOCATION
TRANSPORTATION SPECIALIST	GS-9	AFGHANISTAN
ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT OFFICER	GS-12/13	AFGHANISTAN
PROPERTY BOOK TEAM CHIEF	GS-11/12 & 9/11	AFGHANISTAN
QA/QC	GS-12/13	AFGHANISTAN
CHIEF MAINTENANCE	GS-14	AFGHANISTAN
SUPPORT PLANS & OPNS OFFICER	GS-13	AFGHANISTAN

A. The act of
adding water
to crops.

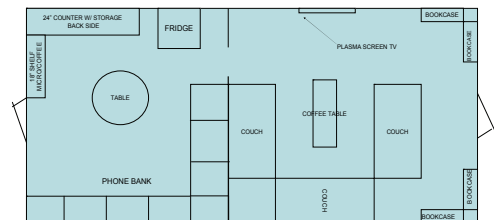
Q. What is a
irrigation?

Morale Continued from page 4



LTC Dix explains his vision for the AMC MWR/Gym

BREAK ROOM OPTION 3 (WITHOUT
DIVIDED ROOM)



Diagrams of the pending MWR

For AMC personnel that do not want phones or internet service within their living quarters, there will be an MWR and gym facility available on site equipped with Internet, phones, cable TV, MWR Activities and just plain old entertainment for their individual pleasure.



AECOM workers work on the floors



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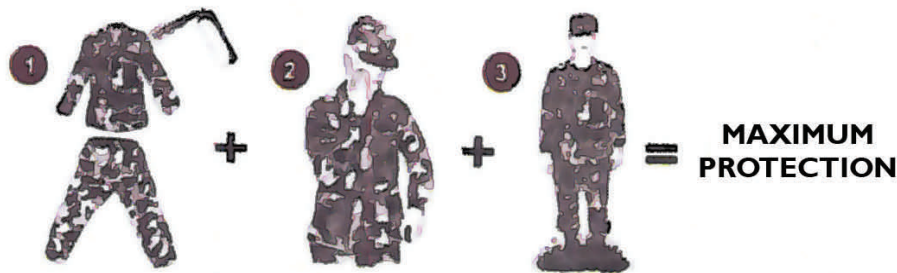
A. The process in
which vapor
becomes a
liquid or solid.

Q. What is a
condensation?



HEALTH CORNER: DOD INSECT REPELLENT SYSTEM / DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST SAND FLIES

Protects against sand flies, mosquitoes, ticks & other biting arthropods



1—Treat uniform with **permethrin**. Use Impregnation Kit (IDA) (NSN 6940-01-345-0237) or Aerosol Spray Can (NSN 6840-01-278-1336) Treat bed net with Aerosol Spray Can.

2— Apply **DEET** lotion to exposed skin. Use NSN 6840-01-284-3982

3—Wear uniform properly to cover as much skin as possible and prevent access through openings in the clothing: roll sleeves down, tuck pants into boots, tuck undershirt into pants.

DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST SAND FLIES

- Tiny - Only 1/3 size of mosquitoes
- Fit through mesh of untreated bed nets
- Most active from dusk to dawn
- Make no sound
- Severe nuisance biters
- Transmit diseases

Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease. Symptoms may not show up for weeks or months. The 2 most common forms are:

- Visceral (“kala-azar”) - severest form; causes fever that won’t go away, affects internal organs, causes death if not treated.
- Cutaneous (“oriental sore”) - causes long-lasting skin ulcers that can leave ugly scars.



Cutaneous Ulcers

Sand Fly Fever is a viral disease that can cause flu-like symptoms; sometimes brain infection; symptoms can be severe but rarely fatal.

- Use the DOD Insect Repellant System
- Sleep under a permethrin-treated bed net

Information from U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion & Preventive Medicine

Paving Project will Enhance AMC Site

Paul Dobie,
with story contributions from CPT Jame McArdell
AMC Engineers

AMC AFSBn-AF has been fully operational at the new site since July 1, 2005. Because of the type of vehicles being maintained at the site as well as the Add-on-Armor program, significant supplies and materials are stored in the open environment due to the lack of warehouse space.

As the only Add-on-Armor Facility on BAF, and the only General Support Maintenance Facility in Afghanistan; the movement and general storage of supplies and equipment have been a situation needing resolution since becoming fully operational. Anyone that has been on the site understands that the gravelled roads and staging areas often become nightmares during inclement weather. The solid gravel base you thought you had often begins to turn soft and becomes a mud hole. Supplies stored on the ground can become damaged by excess moisture and or difficult to be moved by forklifts causing delays in support of mission operations. Delays that our Warfighters in the forefront cannot afford. It is with this in mind that moving a paving project to the top of the list was critical.

Current estimated cost for this effort is at \$250,000 for some 10,300 cubic meters of asphalt with preparatory gravel road base and guide posts being placed to enhance the storage and living area for the equipment and individuals of AMC.

The work is being completed by Nawid Bakhshi Construction (NBC) out of Kabul. AMC supports the Afghanistan First Program and uses local contractors as much as possible.



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Some 10,300 cubic meters of asphalt with preparatory gravel road base and guide posts will be laid to enhance the storage and living area for the equipment and individuals of AMC.



NBC also provided for concrete walkways and gravel around the new

A. Lack of precipitation for a long period of time.

Q. What is a drought?



AMC Training *Continued from page 2*

trainers started their own Train the Trainer program with the rest of their team and continue to enhance the M1114 humvee; making them stronger, better, safer than prior to the new enhancements.

The new features will help protect the front-line Soldiers, and give them a few seconds more of an edge while entering and exiting the vehicle. The kits consist of a gunner's restraint system, fire suppression system, new seatbelts with a faster release, communications apparatus, single movement combat locks and a fragmentation kit. This addition to the M1114 humvee will add a level of protection to this vehicle that is undoubtedly a combat force multiplier, and will increase the feeling of security for our combat warfighters. The new enhancements will provide an even greater chance of survivability to the Warriors who on a daily basis face the possible detonation of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), and a greater feeling of security for commanders and Soldiers alike.

The Partnership between AMC, AECOM, and 10th Mountain, will pay high dividends in lives saved and keeping the Warriors in the fight.



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The new features will help protect the front-line Soldiers, and give them a few seconds more while entering and exiting the vehicle.

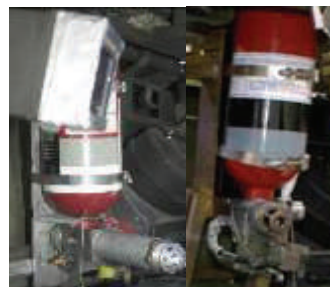
Humvee Enhancements-Core System



**Single Movement
Combat Lock**



VIC-3 Intercom System



Fire Suppression System



3-Point Seat Belts



Gunners Restraints

A. The chemical symbol for water.

Q. What is H₂O?



Partnership

Continued from page 1



LTC Dix's opening comments praised the workers for all their hard work; followed by his vision and the progress made as a team with AECOM.

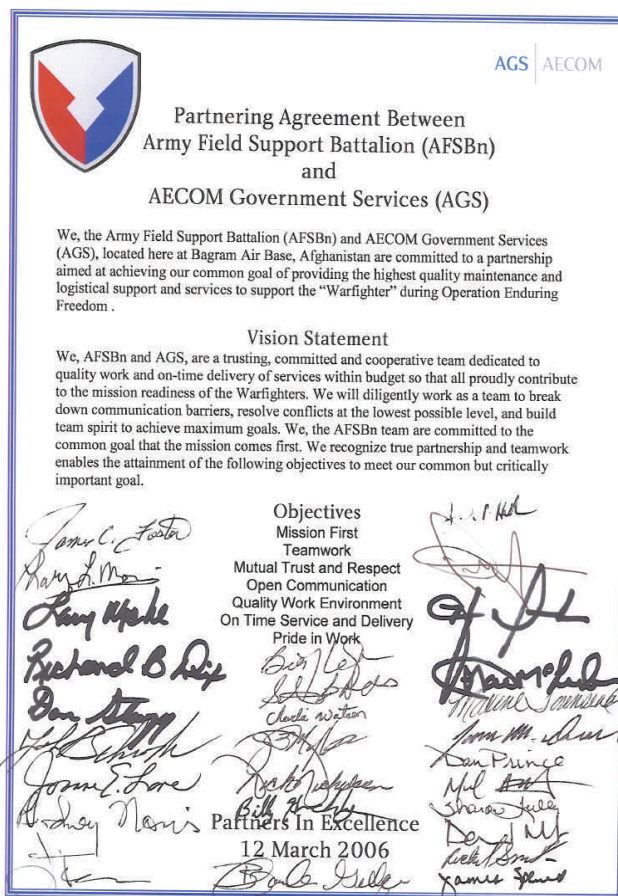
Don Stagg followed with the a recount of the new leadership and the invocation. "It is refreshing to work with LTC Dix and his staff. The mission of supporting the Warfighter and the vision of how we will get there are one in the same," Don Stagg remarks.

This Partnership Agreement is the result of Leaders who want to make a difference in a way of life, and returning Soldiers safely home. It represents a commitment to cooperation and mutual support. It is intended to not only improve production but also quality of life and foster an environment of support, dedication, and trust; in a word-

Partnership.

By combining shared goals and visions on how to best support the Warfighter, LTC Dix, Commander of AFSBn-AF and Mr. Don Stagg, Project Manager of AECOM, came up with a common means to support each other for the good of the team.

April 16, 2006 marked a time of commitment for the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan and AECOM Government Services (AGS). "A new day and new beginning in the desert of Afghanistan, began with the signing of the AMC AFSBn-AF /JLC/AECOM Partnership Agreement"



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It is refreshing to work with LTC Dix and his staff. The mission of supporting the Warfighter and the vision of how we will get there are one in the same," Don Stagg remarks



A. A pit, hole, or shaft sunk into the earth to tap an underground source of water.

Q. What is a well?

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We're on the Web
[http://m03nafbsbrvr/
index.htm](http://m03nafbsbrvr/index.htm)



COMMANDER'S CORNER

April was a month of expressed commitments / partnerships, and building bonds towards the common goal of the providing the best support available for our Warfighters.

AFSBn-AF built relationships between not only our fellow Soldiers but between the other agencies, and cultures that support the Warfighters.

The Easter Day Barbeque and signing of the new "Partnership Agreement", JLC / AFSBn-AF / AECOM was the first step in



building and maintaining a family and team atmosphere here in Afghanistan.

The month has brought us closer to accomplishing our APS-5 mission and bringing several cultures together for the common goal of a better Afghanistan!

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[http://m03nafbsbrvr/
index.htm](http://m03nafbsbrvr/index.htm)



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Meal prepared
by the local
national and



The Local Na-
tions of AE-
COM hosted a
meal prepared
by the local
national and Indian workers
that is traditionally prepared in
honor of a young man and
woman uniting in matrimony.
It was important to them to
host this meal and the unity of
them preparing this meal was
a clear sign of their thanksgiv-
ing to the US Gov't, AFSBn-
AF and AECOM.



*I am grateful for all the hard work
and dedication to mission from the
men and women of AFSBn-AF the
best battalion in SWA! Hooah Stay
Safe and Take care of each other!
Remember Safety first in all that we
do! In country and on R&R! Live to
Support another day!*

- LTC Dix